

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas
P.O. Box 128
Grantsburg, WI 54840

JULY 2020



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UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH

715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg)

715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church

Church Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com,

Pastor Jenny Lee: JENNLEE1732@GMAIL.COM

Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org

Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches

July 2020



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.



“How is Your Soul?”

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-6)

When we meet people, we typically greet them with, “how are you?” If we ask people, ‘how are you?’ most of them say, “I am fine.” But I wonder if they are really fine.

Back in my country, when I first learned this English greeting, I learned only one thing: when asking ‘how are you?’ the answer is ‘I am fine, and you?’ It became humor, like when one gets hurt, and he is bleeding from his knee. He needs to go to the hospital. At that moment, an American sees him and asks him, ‘how are you?’ He, who was hurt with his knee bleeding answered, ‘I am fine, and you?’ Even though he was suffering, should he say, ‘I am fine’?

We are experiencing a worldwide pandemic that has shut down countries and locked out our hope. Now, some stores, restaurants, and churches have started to reopen, but we already have experienced much loss and grief, such as beloved ones, jobs, and shelters. Nevertheless, we still say, ‘I am fine.’ How could it be okay? Like the man, may we not know how to answer? Otherwise, we are tearing physically, but perhaps, we are fine spiritually. Because Christians live according to the Spirit, they try to find their hope from God, the unseen and supernatural Provider.

Our churches closed for about three months. Some people could not see each other at all during this time. We could not gather together in person. After closing the church, we began to panic about what will happen and how we will handle our life. Some people bought many life supplies at one time from stores. Some stores’ shelves became empty. We felt like we were experiencing a war and we felt isolated. However, we started online services and meetings and tried to connect. Finally, we now have ‘Drive-In Services,’ and we can see each other in person, while wearing masks and keeping social distancing. We have experienced new technologies, and a new frame of church gathering.

I stopped by in the churches while they are closed. I felt that someone had also stopped by in the church, as if angels visited the churches. Someone cleaned up. Someone took care of candles on the altar. Someone cleaned and organized the kitchen and library. Some still send their gifts and offerings to the church. Someone took care of all the offerings. Someone took care of the church signboard. Someone planted flowers on the church garden. Even though the church building is closed, we never close our spiritual church. We are the church in which we are with the Spirit of God.

A philosopher says, “even though the earth destroys tomorrow, I will plant an apple tree.” It means that we may find hope in the middle of hopelessness. If Jesus Christ were here, what would he do? He would pray until the final moment of the earth’s destroying. He indeed used to pray his whole life, even at his last moment on the cross. The prayer is the breath of Spirit to connect with God. If we do not breathe, we are dead. Like that, if we do not pray, our Spirit is gone. I would ask you, “how is your soul?” I understand that we are not okay physically. However, what about your Spirit?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

I would encourage you to have a moment of meditation daily to take care of your Spirit. I like gardening. I planted seeds around the parsonage this spring. And I water them every morning and evening. During watering them, I observe them. I feel the whisper of life from the sprout of the plants. Every time while watering them, I find new life in their growing. Gardening is one of my meditations to experience the mystery of life and the providence of God. Through gardening, I feel that my Spirit gets a refresh.

Besides meditation of gardening, my rule of life is "drive-through prayer." In a busy daily life, sometimes it is difficult to have a prayer time intentionally. Even though I pray in the morning, I often forget that I have to depend on God's work. I often worry about how to handle the many affairs in daily life. Eventually, I see only a lot of work around me, and worries come to my mind. Therefore, I try to do "drive-through prayer." It is a way to invite God in my life. In other words, it is a way of God-centered life. It is like picking up food or doing bank business via the drive-through window. Driving means to continue working and not resting. In other words, I try to pray every moment and in every circumstance.

I pray to God while I am walking on the street, while I am working for the church, while I am eating food, while I am visiting someone, while I am getting groceries, and even while I am driving a car indeed. It is my drive-through prayer. In other words, I pray in any circumstance to invite God in my life. This sort of prayer keeps me at peace as I am "walking with God" and keeps me in a positive mindset as God leads me in the right way. So, how about you?

I encourage you to have a meditation time or a connection time with God in your daily life. You may want to invite God into your everyday life to lead you in a better way than what you expected.

Blessings,

Pastor Jenny Lee



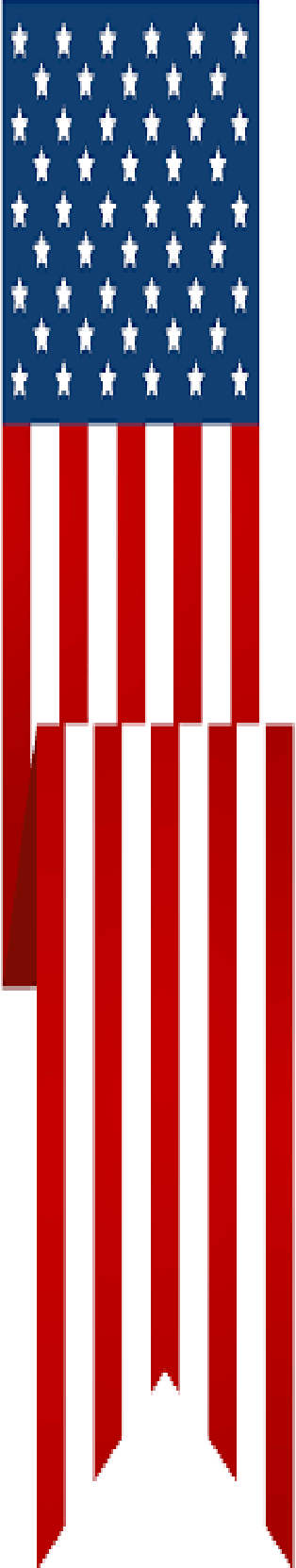
Angels planted flowers in the church garden and decorated the church signboard.

Thank you!

GIVING

The Only Constant In Life Is Change

July 2020



No woman/man steps into the same river twice. For it is not the same river and she/he is not the same woman/man. –Heraclitus of Ephesus (c. 500 BC)

What will church be like after the pandemic? We should plan for it to be different. The Israelites returned from exile to rebuild the temple, as well as their religion. However, neither was the same as it had been.

Around the same time, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus noted that, “The only constant in life is change.” No one can step into the same church twice, especially post-Covid-19. In the post-Covid-19 church:

Worship will be online. Most churches find that the number of links to online worship is greater than their average attendance before the epidemic. Who would go back to serving fewer people? Therefore, we will have in-person and online services. However, we will need new ways of reaching out to people who may not live nearby.

Buildings will be less important. We spend a quarter to a third of our budgets on physical properties. That will likely change, though slowly.

Time will be less important. Many churches record their worship and people can watch anytime. No more will our churches be able to ignore those who work, travel, or spend time with family on Sunday mornings.

How you support the church will change as well. You may not be present, but God will still be working through the church. Thus, your giving will have to be digital (funds transfer, online giving, etc.).

How we relate to the community will change. We will have to be more adaptable to changing circumstances. For example, right now a famine is starting. As food grows scarce, rising prices thrust many families into famine-like circumstances. How will our church help feed others, not just at home, but around the world?

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at
www.wumf.org or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)
Or call 1-888-903-9863

Time for Revolutionary Change

*Listen, you that are deaf;
and you that are blind, look up and see!
Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf like my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind like my dedicated one,
or blind like the servant of the Lord?
He sees many things, but does* not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear. (Isaiah 42:18-20)*



Good people of Jesus Christ, it is time for us to acknowledge and confront our racism and the systems and structures we have created that continue to perpetuate injustice, inequality, and violence. It is not enough for each individual to say, “my heart breaks for the families of victims of violence against black, brown, and Asian people.” This is a starting point, but it does nothing to bring about change. When we do this, we become God’s dedicated ones who are deaf and blind.



I could say that recent events have raised our awareness, but the recent incidents with Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor are just the most recent in decades and centuries in this country. The pandemic has taken an inordinate toll on black and brown communities, because our systems foster

continued poverty and marginalization of racial ethnic minorities. We cannot simply voice regret and concern; the time has come for The United Methodist Church to work together for justice for our black family members – all children of God.

Black Lives Matter became a slogan that “those people” used to voice their anger, hurt, and displeasure. No, the truth of black lives matter emerged because story after story, incident after incident showed that it is not safe to be a black person in our twenty-first century reality. No one should have to worry that they will be stopped due to the color of his or her skin. No one should worry that they will be beaten, attacked, or killed because they “fit a profile.” Young black people should not have to be told “not to run, not to make eye contact, not to approach white people,” and their parents should not have to live in fear whenever their children leave home.

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED...

This is not the will of God! This is not acceptable to people who have been baptized into the spiritual community committed to building God's Holy realm on the earth. We need to work for justice. We need to crusade for peace. We need to speak up, speak out, and stand with our black brothers and sisters. We need to embrace our brown brothers and sisters as members of our family. We need to reassure our Asian siblings that they belong. We need to welcome those of every hue and color as acceptable, beloved, gifted and blessed. This cannot simply be a nice concept and a good intention. The day has come to commit our mission work to the peace and justice work of our General Board of Church and Society. It is now time to communicate to our state and federal leaders that racial justice is our highest need, our highest priority.



We must divorce racial justice from a misguided sense that this is a "political" issue, and that we should not be involved. This is a human rights issue. Moreover, it is a Christian witness for the world. We must open ourselves to be the prophetic voice of God, to allow God's message of mercy, justice, humility, peace, and unity to be heard loud and clear. In this time of pandemic anxiety, we should do nothing to contribute to people's pain and suffering, but should do all in our power to offer healing and hope.

If you cannot walk in peaceful protest, you can still write letters, make phone calls, send emails, and vote. When possible, we should rally around our ethnic communities and work to clean up, restore, and rebuild in solidarity and partnership. It is time to make our heartfelt passion concrete. We are not called to sit by and watch God's children be abused and killed. The time has come for revolutionary change. Our core values as Christians include the affirmation of all life, the glory and goodness of God's creation, and the very real truth that God is love. As we live into our future, we will transcend our vision to confront "institutional racism," so that together we might eliminate not only the outward and visible signs, but might allow the healing Spirit of God to transform the inward and spiritual sickness.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS

Currently there will be no services at Grantsburg in July.

We will keep you posted.

The Ad Council will meet on July 7th to discuss opening the church to hold services. Stay well! Thank you!

WE  OUR
volunteers



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Abby Alderman 7/1
Sharon Huff 7/3
Daniel & Erica Harmon 7/4
John & Jodi Elmgren 7/4
John Elmgren 7/4
Jordan Paulson 7/4
Rachel Harmon Bakker 7/4
Andy & Monica Loomis 7/14
Adam Dahl 7/18
Trevor Bohn 7/18
Mark Harmon 7/20
Austin Zastrow 7/24
Floyd Drohman 7/24
Logan Smestad 7/26



Our church is prayer
conditioned...

A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH MAY 2020



Funds	May 2020	Year-to-Date 2020
General Funds Gifts	\$ 5,460.00	\$ 22,958.00
Loose Offering	\$ -	\$ 217.55
Upper Room	\$ -	\$ 20.00
Sunday School	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Funds	\$ 5,460.00	\$ 23,195.55
Equipment		
Replacement Fund	\$ -	\$ 168.00
Capital	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Missions	\$ 50.00	\$ 316.00
Specials	\$ -	\$ 131.00
Other-Pastors Youth		
Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 730.00
A/C Fund	\$ -	\$ -
UMW	\$ -	\$ -
UMM	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
All Funds	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 24,650.55

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS



**There will
not be a
meeting in
July.**



**Special
Admin Council**
6:30 pm ~ July 7th
Central UMC

Admin Council
6:30 pm ~ July 21st
Central UMC

UMW NEWS....

We met at church on June 10th for a 4pm meeting followed by dinner of take out meals from Fired Up Bistro. The meeting and dining went well. Nine attended the meeting and eight stayed to eat. We did our best to socially distance and wear masks. Feedback I've received is that attendees found our Ladies Night Out enjoyable.

Our next meeting will be August 12th. We will take a tour of Faith Lodge near Danbury, walk the labyrinth there, then go on to Mary McNally's cabin for lunch and an afternoon meeting. Carpooling will be arranged. Please look for details in the August newsletter and be thinking about joining us! Last August, our trip to the Webster labyrinth and Mary's cabin was a great day!

-LuAnne Martell, UMW President

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome Benjamin Donald Evans!

Born at 11:08 a.m. Sunday, May 31 at Grand Rapids MN Hospital to Lenora and Sam Evans.



Benjamin weighed 6 lbs 10 oz. 19.5" has dark eyes and more hair than Grandpa. All are doing well at home. All are thrilled. God is good!

Our new address:
Linda Bengé & Steve Briggs
1313 6th St SW
Grand Rapids MN 55744



StevenDBriggs@hotmail.com
715-222-5782 text & mobile



FATHERS are...

By Olivia McNally

Forever forgiving of us.

Always there to ask for advice from.

Teachers to us on how to love one another.

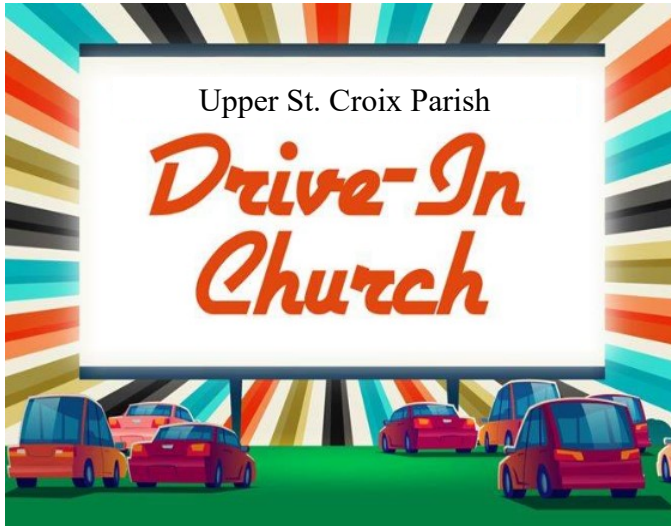
Helpful to us when we are in need.

Empathic towards our emotions.

Raisers; they raise us up when we're feeling low.

Supportive of us when we are at our worst.

ATLAS NEWS



Sundays, 6/28-7/26

10:00 am

Atlas Park next to Atlas UMC

If possible please print out your own materials that will be emailed out to everyone. There will be some hard copies at available.

Please bring your own bread and juice for the Communion service on July 5th and Pastor Jenny will bless everything that day for Communion.

INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offerings:

6/7	\$1055.00
6/14	\$ 135.00
6/21	<u>\$ 120.00</u>



Total \$1310.00 (as of 6/21)

\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses. **\$1968.84** shortage for June.

Thank you for your faithful financial support of the ministry of Atlas church!



PLANET GREEN INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM



Do you have used ink jet cartridges or old cell phones? Every one that you donate to the church provides extra money to fund Atlas Church's Ministry and outreach. Thank you for your continued support of this program!



Scott Olson
7/2

Jamie Steffen
7/12

Brodie Kunze
7/15

Chelsie Kunze
7/21

Roxane Brock
7/27

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

July 20th at 6:00 pm
Atlas UMC





&



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

You are invited to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck . As we are not currently holding church services, please drop your food shelf donations off in person at the food shelf.

July Collection:

School Supplies and/or Peanut Butter & Jelly



Atlas UMC Annual Thrift and Bake Sale

The date of this year's sale has been put on hold. A date for later this fall will be announced once it is set.



It's the 4th of July in the United States ...just like everywhere else in the world.

Too many Americans just call it "the 4th of July" without thinking of what it's about.

What's *important* is that it's Independence Day, the anniversary of the day in 1776 when our Founding Fathers adopted a "declaration" of our country's independence from tyranny, from the idea that a single sovereign should have say over citizens. They dared to assert that individuals matter, that each citizen is created equal, and has the "unalienable right" to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (among other rights).

It's not about a day off, or BBQs, or fireworks. It's about our independence and freedom — both of which are still under attack every day by those who think they should have the power to dictate how you live your life.

So if I may, I'll urge my fellow Americans to call July 4th **Independence Day**, rather than "the 4th of July". The date isn't the important part, the idea is.

—Randy Cassingham, Founder, ThisIsTrue.com Thought-Provoking Entertainment Online Since 1994



HELPING HANDS
BNC 731

Currently there are no Helping Hands signed up for July as we will continue our outdoor Drive-In Services through the summer.

We will keep you posted as to when the church will open for Sunday Services.

Thank you!



JULY MISSION:

July's Sailor Hat offering will go to support Habitat for Humanity



We will honor our students who graduated on July 26th during our worship service. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate their accomplishments and give them a proper send-off!

ST. CROIX FALLS NEWS

REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF

On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry... just be sure your food items have not expired.

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 7/5/20



Jim Andrews
7/28

Joan Ziegler
7/31



St. Croix Falls
Admin Council Meeting via
Zoom

Thursday, July 16th
4:00 pm

MISCELLANEOUS

Amazon Smile—Support us when you shop anytime!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Upper St. Croix Parish.

The money we receive will be used to support our parish's next generation. Thank you to those who are using the link below when shopping through Amazon. Please feel free to share this link with anyone you know who shops through Amazon. You receive the same products at the same price yet you can make a big difference in supporting our youth!

Copy and past the address below (or click on the link if you're seeing it electronically) into your browser and then bookmark the page for future use. Once you log into your account you can bookmark that and it will save your information if you make that selection! Thank you for your support!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7429002>



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLED FOR 2020



Due to the pandemic, VBS has been cancelled for 2020.

The grant we received will be used for VBS in 2021.

**MAJOR
LOCAL
EVENTS
CANCELLED
DUE TO
COVID-19**



It is with a heavy heart that the 2020 Polk County Fair, World Champion Snowmobile Watercross in Grantsburg and Wannigan Days in St. Croix Falls, have been CANCELLED!

With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, some hard decisions had to be made in order to keep the community and our families safe. As the need to socially distance is quite possibly the exact opposite of what would take place at these public events.

We look forward to the 2021 celebrations next year.

Save the Date!

Fellowship, food & fun
CHURCH
Picnic



**UPPER
ST. CROIX
PARISH
FAMILY PARK
NIGHT**

July 18th
Atlas Park
4-6 pm

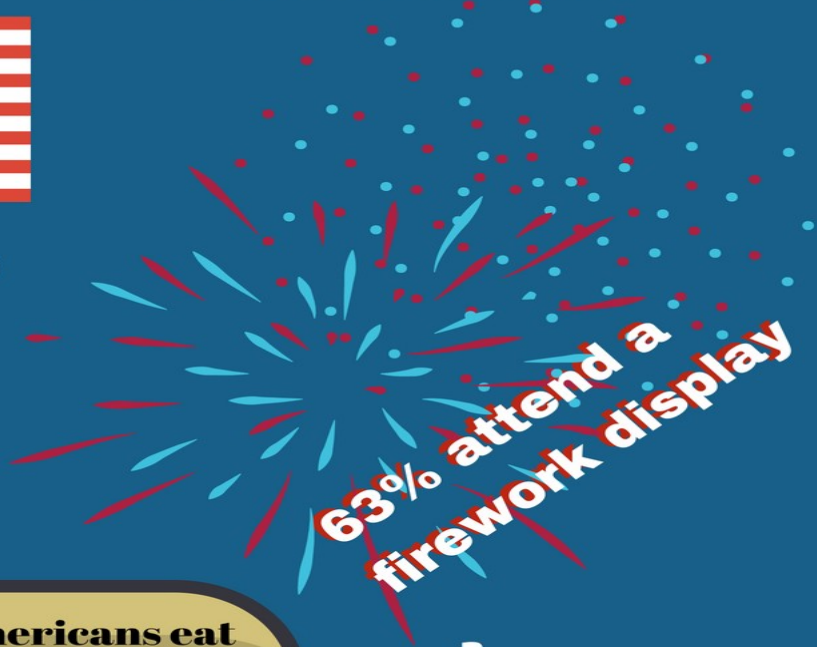
Families bring a picnic dinner and your kids and enjoy an evening playing at the park with other parish families!

4TH OF JULY FUN!

what do you do to celebrate?



66%
display an
American
flag



On the Fourth, Americans eat



around 150 million hot dogs

**happy
independence
day**

1846



To avoid further
cracking, the
Liberty Bell **has
not been rung**
since 1846

14,000+



More than 14,000
**professional
firework displays**
are shot off in the
U.S. on July 4th,
according to the APA



Fourth of July Jokes

Q: Where did George Washington buy his hatchet?

A: At the Chopping Mall

Q: How come there's no knock knock joke about America?

A: Because Freedom Rings

Q: Do they have a 4th of July in England?

A: Yes that's how they get from the 3rd to the 5th.

Q: What did one flag say to the other flag?

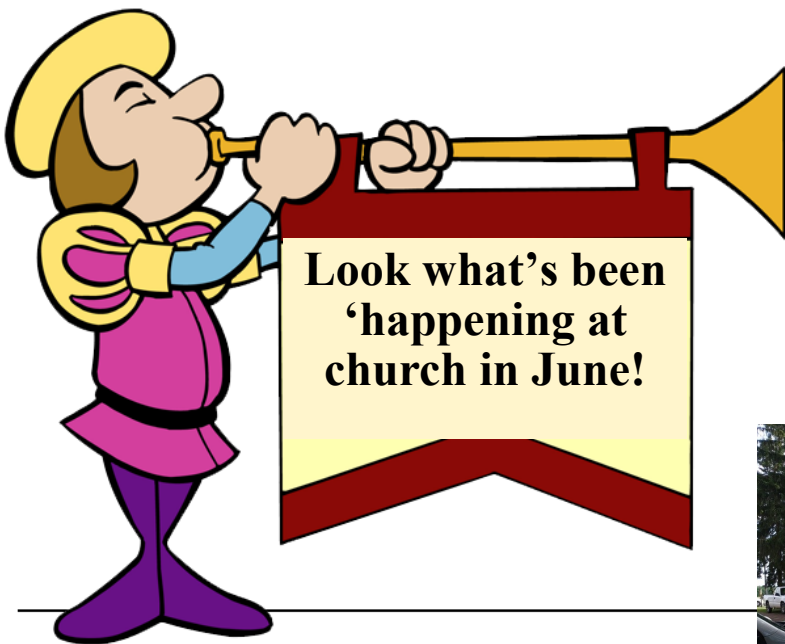
A: Nothing-it just waved!

Q: Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell?

A: Ya it cracked me up!

Q: Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

A: At the bottom...



**Drive-In Services at Atlas Park
on June 7th, 14th and 21st.**



**St. Croix Falls
Food Shelf had a
huge sale on
June 12th & 13th.**

**UMW had a
meeting on
June 10th.**



**Youth Confirmation Class via
Zoom on June 3rd.**



**Atlas held Ad Council
Meeting on June 15th.**



**Central-
Grantsburg held
Ad Council Meeting
on June 16th via
Zoom.**



**The SPRC Committee Meeting was held
via Zoom on June 9th.**



**St. Croix Falls held Ad
Council Meeting on June 18th
via Zoom.**

Polk County Food Shelves

Amery

Amery Food Shelf—230 Deronda Street, Amery

Food Shelf is located in the old Amery Regional Medical Center Building.
Call (715) 268- 5999 before 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Leave name and number on voice mail. Open Thursday 2-6 pm.

Area of service: Amery school district only

The Congregational Church—201 Harriman Ave. North, Amery

Food distribution: 9-10:30 am every 2nd Saturday of the month . Registration is 7 am to 9:30 am. **715-268-7390 Special note:** No economic restrictions; however, a \$20.00 donation is asked to help cover the cost of the truck.

Ruby's Pantry —www.amery.ucc.org or office.ameryucc@gmail.com

Area of service: County wide

Dresser

People Loving People --- 103 E. Main Street, Dresser

Monday and Saturday 11 am – 1 pm Wednesday 2 pm – 5 pm

Phone: 715-501-4657

Frederic

Family Pathways Food Shelf—1100 Wisconsin Ave South, Frederic

Phone **715-327-4425**

Open Tuesday 9 am—6 pm, Thursday 9 am—6 pm, Saturday 9 am—12pm

For best service please call for appointment.

Luck

Loaves and Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry—300 North 1st Street, Luck

Pantry is located in the back of the DBS Hall

Open Tuesday & Thursday 11 am—1 pm

Phone **(715) 472-2003**

Area of service: Luck & Unity School Districts

Osceola

The Open Cupboard Food Shelf—402 2nd Avenue, Osceola

Call for appointment: **715-294-4357**

Open Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm

(The Open Cupboard also has used furniture & clothing)

Area of service: Osceola & Dresser school district

St. Croix Falls

St Croix Falls Food Shelf—809 Pine Street, St Croix Falls

Phone: **715-520-2397**

Open Monday 9 am—11 am Wednesday 3 pm—6 pm Friday 9 am – 10 am

Area of service: SCF school district, Dresser elementary, Centuria, Cushing & portions of Balsam Lake & Taylors Falls

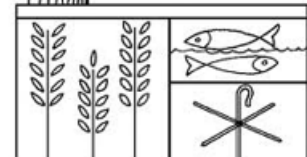
Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls

Phone: **715-483-2920**

Open Monday 9–5 pm, Tuesday 9-5 pm, Wednesday 12 pm– 6 pm, Thursday 9-5 pm, Friday 9–5 pm, & Saturday 9-Noon



YOU give them something to eat. Mt 14:16



Burnett County Emergency Food Shelves and Distributions

Grantsburg Area Food Shelf *No cost*

Serving residents of the Grantsburg School District
Open Thursday 9:30am-11:30am;
EMERGENCIES ONLY on Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am
Allowed to come 2 times a month
Located between the Library and the Village Hall Office,
320 South Brad St., Grantsburg, WI



Indianhead Community Action Agency- "Connections" *No cost*

Serving all Burnett County residents
Open 10am-3pm Monday, Tuesday & Friday
Located in Webster next to the Holiday Gas Station
(715) 866-8151

Ruby`s Food Shelf- Siren *No cost*

Serving residents of the Siren & Webster School Districts
Open 10:00am-2pm Monday & Friday
10:00am-4pm Wednesday
Closed Thursday

****You`re asked to be there at least 30 minutes before close**
Located at 24534 State Hwy 35/70 (Ruby`s Secondhand)
(715)349-RUBY (7829)



Ruby`s Monthly Food Distributions *Bring own boxes or baskets Donation: \$20*

For dates, times, and locations (no location restrictions at this time), visit <http://www.rubyspantry.org/distribution/distschedule.htm>

Second Harvest Food Distribution *No cost*

First and Third Thursday of every month
Starts at 11:00am until food is gone
Located at Connections in Webster
(next to the Holiday Gas Station)
This distribution is offered to anyone in need of food; please help get the word out

St. Croix Chippewa Commodities Distribution

24663 Angeline Ave., Webster
349-2195, Becky Reynolds
Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm
(Native American Income Eligible Only)
Closed first week of each month for inventory. Can only receive one time per month. A variety of items are available each month and may include canned meats; juice; canned foods; dry goods; frozen meats; cheese; rice and pasta; fresh produce.

